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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/688,400	10/16/2003	Zhang-Lin Zhou	200300077-1	1347

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EXAMINER

AULAKH, CHARANJIT

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1625

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/688,400	Applicant(s) ZHOU ET AL.	
	Examiner Charanjit S. Aulakh	Art Unit 1625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-73 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-73 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-73 are pending in the application.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-34 and 36-56, drawn to a digital dye represented by compounds disclosed in scheme 2-1 on page 23 of specification, classified in class 546, subclass 2.
- II. Claims 1-13, 15-33 and 35-56, drawn to a digital dye represented by compounds disclosed in scheme 2-2 (A) on page 23 of specification where one of K1, K2 and K5 represents N, classified in class 548, subclass 402.
- III. Claims 1-13, 15-33 and 35-56, drawn to a digital dye represented by compounds disclosed in scheme 2-2 (A) on page 23 of specification where none of K1, K2 and K5 represents N, classified in class 549, subclass 3.
- IV. Claims 1-13, 15-33 and 35-56, drawn to a digital dye represented by compounds disclosed in scheme 2-2 (B) on page 23 of specification where one of K1, K2, K3 and K4 represents N, classified in class 548, subclass 541.
- V. Claims 1-13, 15-33 and 35-56, drawn to a digital dye represented by compounds disclosed in scheme 2-2 (B) on page 23 of specification where none of K1, K2, K3 and K4 represents N, classified in class 549, subclass 206.

- VI. Claims 1-13, 15-33 and 36-56, drawn to a digital dye represented by compounds other than defined above for groups I to V, classified in class 544, subclass 1+.
- VII. Claims 57-61, drawn to optical switch containing compounds of group I, classified in class 430.
- VIII. Claims 57-61, drawn to optical switch containing compounds of group II, classified in class 430.
- IX. Claims 57-61, drawn to optical switch containing compounds of group III, classified in class 430.
- X. Claims 57-61, drawn to optical switch containing compounds of group IV, classified in class 430.
- XI. Claims 57-61, drawn to optical switch containing compounds of group V, classified in class 430.
- XII. Claims 57-61, drawn to optical switch containing compounds of group VI, classified in class 430.
- XIII. Claims 62-73, drawn to a display device containing compounds of group I, classified in class 364.
- XIV. Claims 62-73, drawn to a display device containing compounds of group II, classified in class 364.
- XV. Claims 62-73, drawn to a display device containing compounds of group III, classified in class 364.

XVI. Claims 62-73, drawn to a display device containing compounds of group IV, classified in class 364.

XVII. Claims 62-73, drawn to a display device containing compounds of group V, classified in class 364.

XVIII. Claims 62-73, drawn to a display device containing compounds of group VI, classified in class 364.

3. The inventions I through XVIII as defined above are patentably distinct, each from the other since they are structurally so divergent that a reference showing compounds of invention I would not render compounds of inventions II through VI prima facie obvious.

Search required for e.g ; compounds of invention I in class 546, subclass 2 is not the same search required for e.g ; compounds of invention II in class 548, subclass 402 and therefore, constitutes a burdensome search.

4. A telephone call was made to the applicant's attorney, Mr. David W. Collins on June 7, 2006 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention. If applicants elect group VI or XVIII, they must provide the structure of the digital dye.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

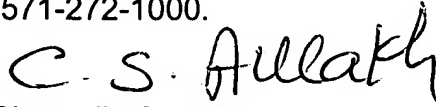
5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charanjit S. Aulakh whose telephone number is (571)272-0678. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas McKenzie can be reached on (571)272-0670. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Charanjit S. Aulakh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1625